

SHIP CHANNEL—FALLS OF NIAGARA.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 502.]

MEMORIAL

OF

CITIZENS OF NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK,

*Praying for an appropriation for a ship channel around the Falls of  
Niagara.*

JANUARY 15, 1835.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House to which is committed the bill (H. R. No. 502) to authorize examinations, surveys, and estimates, for the construction of roads, and for the improvement of certain rivers and harbors.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in  
Congress assembled :*

The petition of the subscribers, citizens of the county of Niagara, State  
of New York,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That, being fully impressed with the magnitude and lasting importance of a ship channel around the falls of Niagara, your petitioners humbly pray leave to call the especial attention of your honorable body to that part of a bill reported on the thirty-first day of May last, in the House of Representatives, by the honorable Mr. Mercer, chairman of the Committee on Roads and Canals, which provides for an "examination, survey, and estimate of a ship channel around the falls of Niagara, with a view to a connexion, through the United States, of Lakes Erie and Ontario." Viewing it as one of the undoubted legitimate powers of the National Government to aid, encourage, and protect, the commercial enterprise of all its citizens, whether located on inland borders, or on the seacoast, your petitioners cannot but feel a deep and lively interest in the execution of a work so essentially necessary as the one proposed, to secure to your petitioners, in common with others, the enjoyment of their joint rights and privileges; and they entertain the more confidence in soliciting the aid of Government, from the fact that liberal appropriations have been made, from time to time, for the construction and improvement of various harbors on these lakes. An obstruction to the free and common use of these harbors yet remains to be removed—an obstruction, the removal of which will enable the water-craft of Lake Ontario

to navigate the inland waters, and participate in the commercial business of the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and the Michigan and Northwestern Territories: a fact which at once clearly evidences the general nature of the improvement. From these considerations alone, the work would seem so far to commend itself to the favorable notice of your honorable body, at the outset, as to merit an appropriation for a survey and estimate, to determine the feasibility of the plan, and the amount of money necessary to carry that plan into execution. Your petitioners feel great confidence in a very favorable report on both points.

Lest they should repeat what is already before your honorable body, contained in some petitions and memorials, your petitioners will refrain from stating more at large the many facts and calculations tending to show the vast magnitude of the proposed ship canal: a work which long since attracted the notice of Government, as will appear by a report made to the honorable the Senate, by Mr. Gallatin, on the 4th of April, 1808. But, after the lapse of another year, your petitioners cannot refrain from stating that the Welland Canal Company, (in Canada,) by means of their enterprise, although their canal is yet in some measure incomplete, has already engrossed, and is now enjoying the benefit of, a considerable portion of the transportation of the Western States bordering on the lakes, thereby depriving your petitioners, and others of our citizens, of the advantages naturally accruing from the transport of their commodities through a channel within the jurisdictional limits of the United States. Your petitioners therefore request your honorable body, with a view to a more certain and definite knowledge of the claims of your petitioners, to pass the said bill providing for an estimate and survey; and, as in duty bound, they will ever pray, &c.

*December, 1834.*

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A. Gorden  
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Ben. Barton  
Rufus Spalding  
Bates Cooke  
R. Fleming  
William Hotchkiss  
Calvin Hotchkiss  
Amos S. Tryon  
Lothrop Cooke  
Rufus Fanning  
J. Bell  
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Samuel Lindley  
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H. L. Franklin  
J. A. Jones  
A. M. Pratt  
Daniel Dickerson

Henry Beamer  
Solomon Gillet  
John McCollough  
Richard Ayer  
Seymour Scovell  
William Cosin  
Samuel Barton  
Zenas H. Colvin  
Andrew Robinson  
Lemuel Cox  
C. F. Dickerson  
Willard Smith  
Charles P. Ghelsey  
Thomas N. Thompson  
Jonathan P. Raymond  
M. H. Fitts  
Milton Kelly  
Lemuel Cooke  
R. Leonard Hurd  
G. W. Shockey  
William Robinson  
A. D. Cotes  
E. Shepard  
William Hotchkiss, jr.

Christian Young  
William Young  
Chester Barber  
John Wittmer  
Benjamin Hewett  
William Mitchell, jr.  
Samuel Wittmer  
David Canfield  
Asher Williams  
Joseph Bradley  
Joel Sutherland  
Pharris Doty  
John Robinson  
Job Chabuck  
Nathan Baker  
Samuel Nash  
Wade Richardson  
Nelson H. Saunders  
Samuel Hatch  
Truman B. Hatch  
Albert Lamkin  
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Arthur Goray  
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William Young	Solomon Gillot	A. Gordon
Chester Barber	John McCollough	Thomas Whitehead
John Wilmer	Richard Ayer	Alfred Ting
Thomas H. Howell	Seymour Scovell	John Barton
William Mitchell, jr	William Cossin	John Spalding
Samuel Withner	Samuel Barton	James Cooke
David Canfield	James H. Colvin	Le Fleming
Asper Williams	Andrew Robinson	William Hotchkiss
Joseph Bradley	Leamuel Cox	Calvin Hotchkiss
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Wade Richardson	Milton Kelly	Asael M. Hurd
Nelson H. Saunders	Leamuel Cooke	Oliver Gerson
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E. Gilbert	A. D. Cotes	H. L. Franklin
Arthur Gray	E. Shepard	J. A. Jones
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		Daniel Dickerson